

LINE IN THE SAND ON SPENDING

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the magic number is \$730 billion. In this morning's congressional article, it said \$730 billion is what the President wants to spend in excess of what the Congress has passed. We both want balanced budgets, but they want to use different numbers to get there.

We are preparing to spend \$2.6 trillion more in the next 7 years than we spent in the last 7 years, a total of \$12.1 trillion. It seems to me that we can fight on priorities within that number, but we should put the line in the sand: \$12.1 trillion and no more.

If the assumptions that the President wants to use are correct and we do wind up with \$730 billion more in revenues or less in spending, we can apply that to our children's debt. However, we should draw the line in the sand: \$12.1 trillion and not a dollar more.

BREAK THE TIES WITH SPECIAL INTERESTS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, 11 months ago, a new Republican majority promised to drive special interest lobbyists from the halls of Congress. What they did not tell us was that the lobbyists would be out of the halls and into their offices.

In fact, instead of ending the cozy relationship between the corporate special interests and lawmakers, Speaker GINGRICH has elevated it to an art form. An article in Monday's Washington Post revealed how the Republican leadership has boasted of twisting arms to raise campaign contributions and rewriting legislation for the highest bidder.

The Republican Campaign Committee even keeps this book on what they call friendly and unfriendly PAC's. The unfriendly PAC's are those that contribute to Democrats. Simply put, those groups are told to give more to Republicans or else.

It is time to break the ties with special interests. This is the people's House. Let us return it to the people today by passing a clean lobby reform bill.

NO GROUND TROOPS IN BOSNIA

(Mr. FUNDERBURK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, our side needs a leader or leaders with the courage to say clearly that we should not send ground troops into Bosnia. It is not in America's vital national security interests. And there is absolutely

nothing to be achieved for America, but much to be lost. We will lose lives and a year later if we leave—which is questionable—full scale ethnic war will resume as during the previous 600 years. Thus nothing will be accomplished but a year-long experiment of the President to gain macho credentials and leadership demonstration.

Bosnia is the latest in Bill Clinton's foreign misadventures. There was Somalia and there was Haiti. And what was gained in those places. In Haiti under the not-so-democratic Aristide, the so-called peace is unraveling.

And America cannot afford in dollars or lives, what NATO and the Europeans have been unwilling to do. It is Europe's turn to look out for its backyard.

With the onset of winter in the mountains of Bosnia and Herzegovina and over a million land mines in place, we do not need American lives sacrificed before Christmas for some artificial creation called Bosnia. In the Congress, let us assert our authority and not fund the latest unwise, tragic foreign misadventure of an aspiring leader named Bill Clinton. No money to send United States ground troops to Bosnia, period.

SAY NO TO GOP DOPE

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, both Democrats and Republicans agree that the American worker is in need of relief. Stagnating wages, longer hours, corporate downsizing, and NAFTA have all taken their toll on what was once the world's highest living standard.

By contrast, the stock market is breaking new records, corporate profits are going through the roof, and corporate executives are making 30 times more than their lowest paid employees.

Yet the Republican solution to these inequities is to cut taxes for wealthy corporations, reduce worker safety, and increase funding for star wars and B-2 bombers.

This trickle-down strategy, Mr. Speaker, is the crack cocaine of bad economic policy. I urge my colleagues to just say no to GOP dope.

AMERICANS NEED BUDGET PLAN FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, it has been over a week since President Clinton committed in writing to an honest balanced budget in 7 years. The Republican majority has a specific plan—we have passed it in both the House and the Senate—now where is the President's plan.

But, the President has not submitted a specific plan. Sure, he sent us 22

pages of general talking points this summer, 10 of which were charts and graphs. And last week, his Chief of Staff, Leon Panetta, sent us a 2-page list of general principles that contained no numbers or specifics whatsoever. The American people have heard enough talk about general goals—they want action now. They want the President to put his plan on paper.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to do what is right for our children's future. Let us sit down, work together, no more rhetoric—no more excuses. Both the Republican majority and the President have promised to balance the budget. Let us keep our promise and let us do it now.

REPUBLICAN PLAN OFFERS TAX RELIEF TO AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Mr. LARGENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, I appear here today as a Member of Congress, but more importantly, I speak as the father of four children. I know firsthand what it costs to raise a family in middle America and I am glad that the Balanced Budget Act includes tax relief for families.

Tax relief for families should not be looked at as a cost to Government. Instead, we should consider it as a way to keep money in the hands of those to whom it belongs in the first place: America's working families.

Cutting taxes is also fiscally responsible. America's families deserve tax relief and Federal spending should be reined in and controlled. Reducing the growth of Federal spending is the way to get to balance, not by taking more money from families.

The bipartisan agreement to balance the budget in 7 years using honest numbers is a step in the right direction. The Government's constant deficit spending must be stopped. I also strongly support tax relief which allows American families to keep more of their own money.

Our Democrat friends claim that they want to balance the budget too. They say that deficit reduction is their goal and we agree.

Let us work together to reach a balanced budget with tax cuts and no new spending.

PRESIDENT SHOULD SIGN DEFENSE APPROPRIATION BILL

(Mr. MONTGOMERY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I have learned that the President of the United States has taken the defense appropriations bill to Europe with him and he will decide whether he will sign the bill or not sign the bill. I certainly hope he will sign it. If he does not sign it, I hope he will not veto the defense appropriation bill. I think it is a reasonable approach.